

I AM NAVY MEDICINE – PETTY OFFICER 2ND CLASS MARIA ELOISA ALMAZAR

By Petty Officer 2nd Class Maria Eloisa Almazar, Operational Readiness, Navy Medicine East



PORPSMOUTH, Va. – My mom, a registered nurse, has been my biggest inspiration in my pursuit of a medical career. I was also in the Navy's Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) throughout high school and truly enjoyed the experience. Being able to merge these two things that I love was what made me interested in joining the Navy as a hospital corpsman.

A native of Orlando, Florida, I enlisted in the Navy five years ago, right after graduating from Cypress Creek High School, and am currently stationed at Navy Medicine East in Portsmouth, Virginia.

Recently, I was selected as the Junior Sailor of the Year for Navy Medicine East headquarters. I am truly honored and grateful. I have such a great support system and I am so very thankful for that. Being part of Navy Medicine is such a wonderful and rewarding experience!

As Navy Medicine East's Medical readiness coordinator, I am responsible for tracking and accounting of the individual medical readiness (IMR) of over 61 active duty personnel as well as for staff at NME's headquarters. As one of the plans, operations, medical intelligence action officers, I am also responsible for providing oversight in resource management and contingency planning for our 20 commands that span the eastern hemisphere as well as for our headquarters. Our efforts ensure the Navy and Marine Corps family is healthy, ready and on the job.

Outside of work, I'm continuing my education, building on my Associate of General Studies from Columbia College.

In my work here at Navy Medicine and my studies outside of work I'm able to support the Navy surgeon general's strategic priorities, especially partnerships, by doing my part to ensure collaborative operational missions are supported across other service branches and with our allies.

I've grown tremendously since I joined the Navy. I've definitely experienced some of the most memorable times of my life—both ups and downs—and I can truly say that my journey so far has been amazing and fruitful.

I'm Petty Officer 2nd Class Maria Almazar, and I am Navy Medicine.